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MADRAS WAR REVIEW

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

VOL. V FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 1944 No. 18

THE WALLS ARE CLOSING IN ON OUR ENEMIES

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT

WE are on the offensive. The walls are closing in remorselessly on our enemies. Our armed forces are gathering for new and greater assaults, which will bring about the downfall of the Axis aggressors

THE United Nations are giving attention also to a different kind of struggle which must follow the military phases—the struggle against disease, malnutrition unemployment and many other forms of economic and social distress

TO make all of us secure against future aggression and to open the way for the enhanced well-being of nations and individuals everywhere, we must maintain in the peace to come the mutual beneficial co-operation we have achieved in the war

AS we look towards the tremendous tasks ahead, let us pledge ourselves that this co-operation shall continue both for winning the final victory on the battlefield and for establishing an international organization of all peace-loving nations to maintain peace and security in the generations to come

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT in his New Year message

CONTENTS

	PAGE
EDITORIAL—	
The Battle of Berlin	3
RUNNING COMMENTARY—	
The Generalissimo's New Year Message—Japanese reverses in the Pacific; Battle of New Britain—Cape Gloucester and Arawe in Allied hands, etc. ..	4–6
Russia—Winter Campaign of 1943–44? By Major Alexander Navozov	7
Autumn Mail from Germany. By M. Vlasov	8
Arma Virumque. (*By* R.G.)	8
Heroines of the Defence of Moscow. By Maria Zhelesnova	8
A Story of a Woman from Kiev. By Arnoldov ..	9
Fatima Rakhmatova. By Ludmila Vepritskaya ..	10
Gulsum Shamsieva. By Alexandra Yakovleva ..	10
Moscow Artists at the Front. By Elona Kuznetsova.	11
The Kirov Tank Plant. By I. Zaltsman, Director of the Kirov plant, the former Putilov Works in St. Petersburg	11
How He Works for the Front. By Anna Karavayova.	12
The Azerbaijan Peasants. By Kuliyev	12
War Headlines of 1943	13
War Diary	14–16

ALL FRONT OFFENSIVE

"We and our Allies are exchanging news of military successes and are preparing an all-front offensive. This New Year's Day marks the dawn of a new era. The outstanding development of the global war during the past year is that the corner stone of victory has been solidly laid while the Axis is showing signs of collapse.

The new year will see decisive stages in the war. I want our army and people treasuring their past achievements and looking ahead to their glorious future to fulfil their obligations and show greater strength and spirit of self-sacrifice in their struggle for the realization of ideals of national revolution.

We have received absolute assurances of attaining the aims of our sacred war of resistance. All men in the various war zones must do their utmost to expedite military preparations when the forthcoming great offensive unfolds. They are making a contribution to the state that will be remembered for ever."

—GENERAL CHIANG KAI-SHEK, *in his New Year's Message to the Chinese Army.*

◆

MAIN BOUT OF THE FIGHT

"We are coming into the most hopeful New Year since the war began. 1944 will see decisive battles in Europe at least. We have got past all preliminaries and have come up to the main bout of the show-down fight. Overseas we have won some great victories in this last war year."

—MR. ELMER DAVIS, *Director of the Office of War Information, in a broadcast on January 1st.*

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THE END OF WAR IN SIGHT

The situation is good. The end of this war is definitely in sight. All we have to do is to have complete trust in our leaders—the leaders of the nation—and get on with the job, and then there can be no doubt whatsoever about the outcome.

—GENERAL MONTGOMERY, *in his farewell message to the Eighth Army on 2nd January.*

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THE BATTLE OF BERLIN

THE R.A.F.'s New Year present to Germany was its hundredth raid on Berlin, when well over a thousand tons of bombs were dropped. A couple of days earlier, another major raid on the German capital had taken place, when over 2,000 tons of bombs were dropped. It is estimated that over 15,000 tons of high explosives and incendiaries were dropped since the Battle of Berlin started on November 18. The importance of these terrific assaults on the centre of Hitler's *Festung Europe* lies in the fact, that the R.A.F. has demonstrated very effectively that, in spite of unfavourable weather conditions, it could carry out such large-scale bombing operations at a range of more than 600 miles from English bases, as though it was a matter of almost daily routine !

NEITHER Hitler nor his Reichminister for Air, Goering, would have ever bargained for this. If they had known that the R.A.F. would pay back the *Luftwaffe's* havoc many times more, they would not have indulged so much in vain and pompous boasts. Three years ago (September 4, 1940), Hitler declared, "No British aircraft can cross the North Sea in daylight." Three years earlier still (August 9, 1937), Goering thumped his expansive chest and boasted that he had convinced himself personally of the measures taken to protect the Ruhr against air attack. "We will not expose the Ruhr," he said, "to a single bomb dropped by enemy aircraft." But bombs were dropped not singly, but in hundreds and thousands over the Ruhr Valley and damaged German war production to a very considerable extent—to such an extent that people are now convinced that the "saturation raids" of Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Harris have materially contributed to the German retreat on the Russian front.

Hitler's Headache

THESE raids have created new problems for Hitler. He has not only to protect German industries from the most severe air bombardment in history, but also to bolster up the morale of his people. He has been saying to the Germans that the R.A.F. raids would be avenged and that everything was being done to protect the German cities from the Allied air attacks. But in spite of his assertions and assurances, the bombing continues to go on at a terrific rate and pace. And the only consolation Hitler's Propaganda Minister could find as a saving grace of it all is that it has brought about greater unity among the Germans. In the year end broadcast over the Berlin Radio, Dr. Goebbels referred to 1943 as a "year of bitter decisions," and said, "The danger of air terror has linked us even closer together." He adds as though that would take away the string of Allied air attacks !—"We have got used to bombing." The same Berlin Radio told German listeners on September 22, 1940: "Every German child knows that not a single enemy plane can reach Germany."

NOW Allied bombers are bombing Berlin and other important targets in Germany and German-occupied Europe day after day and night after night, and however much Hitler and his confederates may try to hide the fact that the Germans are being given a taste of their own medicine, the truth is being dinned into their ears by way of terrific explosions and displayed before their very eyes in the shape of shattered buildings and factories. Now every German child knows that not one, but a thousand bombers, can reach Germany and relieve their bomb-load with devastating effects, not once in a way, but every now and then Hitler threatened, "We shall rub

out their cities," but it is Churchill's "City by City" warning that is being put into practice with persistent regularity. The Ruhr has been devastated, and Hamburg, Bremen, Kassel and Frankfurt and other cities have known what it is to have an R.A.F. raid. Out of a total of 155,000 tons of bombs dropped on enemy territory by the R.A.F., Germany received 135,000 tons. What Marshal Kesselring assigned as the function of the *Luftwaffe* seems to have been taken over by the R.A.F. and the American Air Force—that of breaking the enemy's power of resistance.

Germany's Air Defences

IT may be pointed out in this connection that heavy Allied air attacks have made the Germans concentrate their energies on ways and means to protect German towns and industries. Defensive measures have been undertaken on a larger scale, and priority has been given of late to the construction of fighter planes and production of anti-aircraft guns. Anti-aircraft guns are located miles around industrial targets. In the Ruhr area alone there are 1,000 heavy and 2,000 light anti-aircraft guns and 500 searchlights. The Essen area has about 300 anti-aircraft guns. The Germans, it is noticed of late, have not been placing as much reliance as they used to do upon their ground defences.

THEIR attention seems to be directed towards positive air defences, namely, fighter planes—the negative being the ground defences such as anti-aircraft guns and radio-location units. In the west, a chain of fighter defences has been organised by Lieut.-General Kammbuber between Cologne and Bordeaux and Hamburg and Brest to meet the offensive of the Britain-based Allied bombers. Part of this chain extends to Berlin and other vital industrial towns where selected "crack" night fighter squadrons have been distributed. The German night fighters in the west have a high degree of mobility and can move from place to place to meet the "saturation raids" of Allied air forces. But the ineffectiveness of German fighter forces have been shown particularly in the Battle of Berlin.

No longer raids, but battles

TO-DAY the Allied air offensive has reached such a high pitch that the "raids" have come to be called "Battles." The *Luftwaffe* is now completely on the defensive, and its present position is similar to that of the R.A.F. in 1940. There is, however, one significant difference: the R.A.F. then though numerically inferior, was superior in quality, but the *Luftwaffe* is now inferior both in quantity and in quality.

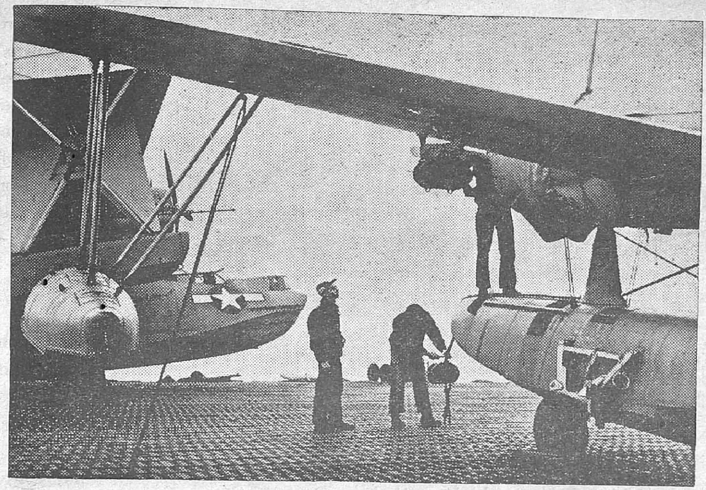
THE broad facts which emerge from the terrific onslaughts on Berlin and other industrial targets in Germany and occupied Europe are that the Allies have overwhelming air superiority which has reduced the strength of the *Luftwaffe* and the productive capacity of German aircraft industry, that the diversion of German fighter strength from Russia has given valuable help to the Red Army, and that the Allies have proved that there is no effective defence against the concentrated might of Allied air power. The Battle of Berlin, one of the latest results of which was the destruction of Hitler's Chancellery, is a significant pointer to the fate that awaits Germany this year.

RUNNING COMMENTARY

The Generalissimo's—New Year Message—Japanese Reverses in the Pacific

In a New Year address to the members of the Chinese Government, Generalissimo CHIANG KAI-SHEK said that China's major task in 1944 should be to launch a large-scale offensive against Japan, preparations for which have been completed. In 1943 China's military operations were co-ordinated with those of the Allies, but in 1944 there would be only one war strategy against Japan. "This New Year's Day," said the Generalissimo, "marks the dawn of a new era. The outstanding development of the global war during the past year is that the corner stone of victory has been solidly laid, while the Axis is showing signs of collapse." He referred to the fact that Japan had been suffering reverses everywhere in the Pacific and the China theatre and said that at the Cairo Conference, America, Britain and China unanimously agreed to strip Japan of all the Pacific islands she had seized.

This stripping process is now being successfully carried on in the New Guinea and New Britain areas. It was announced on Monday that American forces have landed at Saidor on the north coast of New Guinea, and quickly took possession of the harbour and air field. It was a combined operation of ground, sea and air forces. The United States Sixth Army landed at three places under cover of heavy air and naval bombardment. The enemy was taken by surprise, and the landing was accomplished without loss to the Allies. In the adjoining island of New Britain, American forces have extended their hold on the Cape Gloucester area and have dug themselves in to withstand Japanese counter-attack. They have captured large quantities of



In the North Pacific Aleutian Islands, a United States Navy crew attaches a bomb to the wing of a Kingfisher seaplane which is about to take off in search of retreating Japanese forces. At left a big United States Navy Catalina patrol bomber rests on a steel netting covering the beach. Combined air, sea and land operations by United States and Canadian forces drove the Japanese from the Aleutian Islands of Kiska, Attu and Agattu.

Japanese equipment in this area, including damaged aircraft and artillery.

* * *

Battle of New Britain—Cape Gloucester and Arawe in Allied Hands

The Battle of New Britain itself began in the middle of last month when American troops from General KREUGER's Sixth Army landed on the Arawe peninsula at the south-western tip of the island near Cape Merkus. It is stated that though the number of transports used in this operation was less than that used on the attack on Lae in New Guinea, the supporting naval forces, American and Australian, were the largest ever used in this part of the Pacific theatre of war. The operation had full fighter cover and bomber support throughout, and naval forces formed screens to the east and the west of Cape Merkus, but there was no Japanese interference by sea.

Now the northern and south-western tip of New Britain are in Allied hands. The next task is to construct air strips on which fighter planes can land and refuel, so that a nucleus for a large-scale air base can be formed, from which a big offensive against Rabaul can be launched. It may be hoped that the Americans who have repeatedly shown themselves capable of carrying out such tasks with extraordinary rapidity, would be able to consolidate the new Allied bases and carry out the attack on Rabaul.

The present strategical position may now be roughly described. The Japanese drive against Port Moresby on the south-west coast of New Guinea, opposite northern Australia, was held by the Australians who drove their enemy back across the Owen-Stanley mountain range and fought their way to the east coast. At the south end of the Solomons group, the fierce battle for Guadalcanal was won by the Americans. These two great achievements have helped a two-pronged converging offensive to take shape against Rabaul, one of the key fortresses of the outer perimeter of the Japanese defence.

* * *

An estimate of Japan's Strength—Naval and air inferiority

Japan is now defending a perimeter 8,000 miles long. Is it possible to drive her out by weight of numbers on land alone? She has at least 4,000,000 soldiers and the estimated losses since the beginning of the war in the Pacific amount to 200,000 men. Her army in Manchuria seems unaffected; she has vast supplies of slave labour and her population increases by 1,000,000 yearly. But Japan is facing now a growing inferiority in regard to naval and air strength. The United States possesses a growing superiority in ships of all categories and her increase in the number of aircraft-carriers is particularly noteworthy. To this great strength will be added that of Britain when Germany is defeated in Europe.

It is on account of the fact that Japan is weak on sea, that she is following a wise policy of avoiding rash adventures. She is anxious to keep what is left of her battle-fleet, intact, till she is forced by the advance of the Allies to fight really decisive naval engagements in Japanese home waters.

As regards air strength, it may be pointed out that there is deterioration in the Japanese position. Japan has lost about 5,000 aircraft since the Pacific war began, and her productive capacity has, it is thought, already been stretched to the full. When the Allies are able to devote their vast air power to batter the Japanese perimeter, they are likely to concentrate their air strength along selected and widely-separated "lanes of attack," as a result of which there will be a progressive creation of air bases, from which bases for the Navy could be captured.

* * *

Converging Assault on Caroline Islands

Now the Americans have captured certain islands in the Gilbert group and are following it up by air bombardment of the Marshall Islands. In New Guinea, the

ITALY—EIGHTH ARMY—Owing to recent heavy rains in this mountainous sector of the Eighth Army Front, batteries of medium and heavy artillery have had extreme difficulty in finding suitable emplacements near the required positions. Here British infantry men go forward on patrol north of Rionera.

Australians are advancing up the east coast. Both these moves point to the fact that a converging assault on the Caroline islands and the great Japanese base at Truk may be part of the plan. This, however, will be a rather difficult proposition. Unlike Rabaul, which has been improvised as a base after the Japanese occupation, the Caroline islands which have been under Japanese control for twenty years must have been made into a chain of impregnable fortress.

Some people think that Japan will easily collapse after Germany's defeat. This is dangerous nonsense. The Japanese are a race of fanatics and the struggle will be grim and costly before they are overwhelmed as ultimately they will certainly be. Allied air and sea power is moving northwards. It is tightening its grip on Japanese vital sea communications. How long will the Japanese defended by a home-based fleet and a home-based air force, withstand a direct assault on their island, by means of long-based Allied fleets of warships, aircraft-carriers and heavy bombers? Or will it be a question of how long can they endure the process of blockade and attrition? The future alone can show.

MADRAS THANKED FOR GENEROUS GIFT

His Excellency Sir Arthur Hope, Governor of Madras, has received the following cable, dated London, 31st December 1943, from Sir Stafford Cripps :—

"Please convey my warmest thanks to the people of Madras for their further generous gift of £7,500. The support so freely given by Madras has helped us to build up an air force which is proving a vital factor in the struggle for victory."

R.A.F. NURSES

First two Sisters of Princess Mary's R.A.F. Nursing Service to arrive on the Indo-Burmese border are now on active service there.

Coming from England, they are part of a completely mobile unit which is fully equipped with the latest medical apparatus and under the supervision of a surgeon, C.O.

"I am going to like India," said one of the Sisters, who comes from Forest Hill (London) and who formerly served at the R.A.F. Hospital at Ranceby (Lancs).

The other Sister was trained at Guy's (London) and did valuable work in Midwifery in what she describes as "the good old S.E. London boroughs."

RUSSIA—WINTER CAMPAIGN OF 1943–44?

By MAJOR ALEXANDER NAVOZOV

A Party of German soldiers and officers, recently captured in the Kiev area, was asked to fill in an anonymous questionnaire. Two hundred and thirteen answers were received to the question: How is the German army prepared for the winter campaign of 1943–44?

Of the 213, sixteen replied: the German army is well prepared for the winter. One hundred and twenty-eight asserted just the contrary: the German army is totally unprepared for winter.

Forty-five gave indefinite replies. They believed the German army to be only partially prepared for winter. Of these, twenty-one stated that the army had a good supply of foodstuffs and winter clothing but unprepared in every other respect. Seventeen of these forty-five asserted that the German army had everything for the winter campaign but the number of guns and the quantity of ammunition were most decidedly insufficient. The remaining seven stated that everything was prepared but human reserves and reserves of the army were poorly trained.

Six of them arrived at the conclusion that the German army was well prepared from the material standpoint but lacked most in the important morale. The soldiers were not certain of German victory and seemed to have no fighting spirit left in them.

Then come answers various in character. Three declared that the German army was quite prepared for the winter campaign—prepared, however, not for offensive but for retreating operations.

Three others believed there was no time to think of the winter as the German army had her hands full in trying to break away from the pursuing Russians and in shortening the front.

Two declared that preparations for the winter campaign were entirely unnecessary as the German army would be routed by then.

Ten remaining answers I shall quote in full. They are very original and cannot be grouped apart.

The German army has everything for winter and all it needs is a suitable line for defence which it has not as yet found.

No use preparing for the winter for Germans have lost the Dnieper line of winter defences and there does not seem to be another.

The German army had nothing prepared for the winter, except good supply of firewood of which there is plenty in forests across which the German units are retreating.

Everything is prepared for the winter but there is a shortage of leather soles which wear out so soon during uninterrupted retreats.

Once you are deemed to perish it is immaterial whether you do it prepared or unprepared for the winter.

What is the use of preparing for winter when all is lost and defeat is unavoidable.

The German army will be prepared for the winter if the German people render " winter aid."

The army will be prepared for the winter if there will be no sabotage in the German factories and if the partisans leave us alone and will not wreck our supply lines.

Everything is ready for winter but the leaders of the army are not. They are incapable of conducting the winter operations.

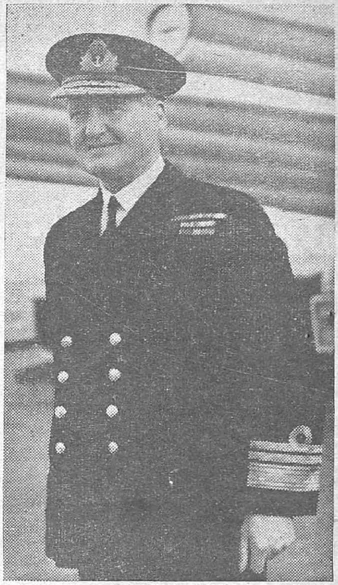
Everything is ready but Hitler is not. He is already shivering with cold. The Fuehrer knows that his end is near.

When I completed my analysis of the anonymous questionnaire, I learnt that a German prisoner had just been brought in. He was a non-commissioned officer, Otto Beningefen, the section commander of the 217th infantry regiment. I asked him the same question. The non-commissioned officer's answer was evasive: " I have a close friend—the Commander of our platoon, Sergeant Major Ken.

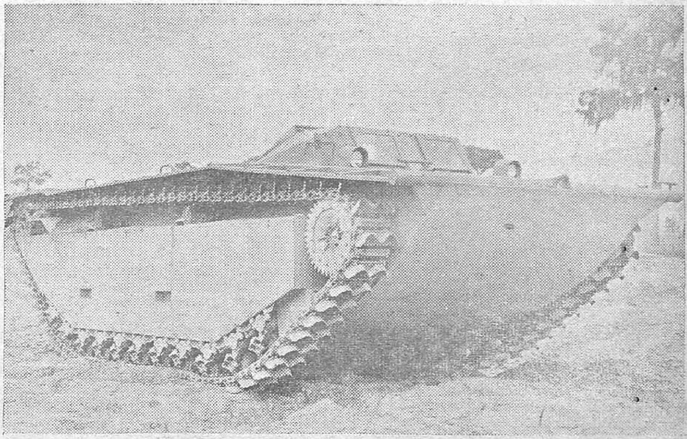
Not long before I was taken a prisoner we discussed the future prospects of the war. Ken was a clever fellow and well-versed in military affairs. We studied the map of war theatre for some time. Then Ken said, ' You know Otto we have lost the war. That is clear.' "

I agreed and think that the end for Germany in this war will be worse than in 1918.

ADMIRAL SIR B. FRASER.



Admiral Sir Bruce Fraser, K.C.B., K.B.E., who was in command of the units of the Home Fleet which successfully engaged and sank the German Battleship Scharnhorst *off North Cape on the evening of December 26.*



UNITED STATES NAVY'S NEW LANDING CRAFT.—A United States Navy LVT (landing vehicle tracked), a landing craft which hauls supplies with equal facility on land or water, is shown gripping sandy soil with its cupped traction gear. The versatile craft has been found particularly valuable in landing operations where it is desirable to unload equipment high on a beach. The LVT moves directly from the water on to the shore, unloads its supplies far inland and makes its way back to its mother ship for another cargo.

AUTUMN MAIL FROM GERMANY

By M. VLASOV

THE stock of letters before me had apparently not been touched by the German censors. What sort of letters were those addressed to the German soldiers by their wives, parents and friends? Opening a few at random, I found the following letter from Irma Recknadel from Munich to her husband: "Dear Fritz; you write so seldom but probably you have little time for this, since you are busy withdrawing 'according to plan,' sleeping, or 'organizing' food.

Now that autumn is here, I am afraid to think what winter will bring. If this war would only end! I can't see any good that has come of that awful business in the east. At office we have got a new saying, 'make hay while the war is on; peacetime will be worse.' Terrible is it not? Good luck to you dear, and don't forget your glutton at home."

Here is a letter of a different sort:

"Lately sirens have been sounded every evening. I expect that they will be on again in two hours. Like a runner on his mark I am waiting for them now: ready to make a dash for the bomb shelter. Who would have dreamt that things would come to this? Now all men are being called to the army. The turn of office rats has finally came—good thing too. It is about time that they were unpasted from their chairs. These gentlemen have been having the best life for a long time. Now they will no longer yell at us and torment the people. Now they shall at last learn something about the eastern front though they will be too late."

The wife of Willi Kraft, who penned the above, would have fared sorely had this latter been examined by "those who yell and torment people." As is known, the Gestapo has its own ways of dealing with those guilty of "pessimism and dissatisfaction." During the past two years bombing of German towns had its effect on the people.

The Germans have undergone a considerable change.

In 1941 the German women also sat about their radios; than waiting for Goebbels to tell them about new and fantastic victories in the east. In those days Hausfraus clapped their hands and exclaimed "Hail Hitler." Now, too, they are sitting about their radio receivers: no longer waiting for victories but for air raid alarm; then to get up like "runners on their mark" and —for the bomb shelters. Their lean years have definitely set in.

What cowardice and brutish fear is contained in these "runners on their marks!" More than once I saw Russian women in Moscow when the Luftwaffe was overhead. What cool courage they displayed, whether on roof watching on ten-storey buildings, at machine, tools, in factories; or policing their beats in the city as militia!

Hundreds of letters from the German rear express the view that the war against the Soviet Union has been lost. They also express fear of just retribution, hatred for the Soviet people and the Red Army; bestial fear of bombing; and often is there a lurking hope of getting a scrap of soap or something good pilfered on the Russian soil.

Letters of German women to their men at the front are decidedly gloomy in autumn, 1943.

ARMA VIRUMQUE

By R.G.

Who would have thought
When war was mechanized
And massacre rolled off the assembly line
Men had not wrought
The end of all things fine?
But man agonized
And was again heroic.
Courage still shoots its challenging bud
And still are devised
Wise arks to swim on the flood
And horses Troic
In which men dare, as before,
With the old grand passion of loyalty
And the old stoic
Patience to suffer and die.
Leaping to shore
Through fire, like Nelson's tars
Or the tameless Anzacs of Gallipoli,
They grasp once more
In Ukraine and Italy
The torturers' bars
And tear them down the faster
With the shot of Shermans and Hurricanes.
And Homer's stars
Shine not on greaves but planes
And armies vaster
But still a-roar with man's
Indomitable though blindfold heart
That's motor and master
Of the mechanic part
And the blueprint plans.

HEROINES OF THE DEFENCE OF MOSCOW

By MARIA ZHELESNOVA

THE Moscow Historical Museum has opened an exhibition devoted to the defeat of German Fascists near Moscow. Thousands of Moscow residents, as well as visitors to the capital, have come to see it.

Two years have passed since the Red Army repelled the enemy who had come up to the city's gates. Hitler had concentrated 13 tank, 33 infantry and five motorised infantry divisions near Moscow, the heart of the Soviet Union. In December 1941, the troops of the Red Army began their counter-attack, and, within four days, liberated over 400 villages and inhabited points; and destroyed 386 enemy tanks. Within a month and a half 30,000 bodies of enemy officers and soldiers had been strewn along roads leading to Moscow.

The portraits and photographs of the brave people who defended the capital are on view in the exhibition halls. Alongside pictures of men hang those of girls. Ordinary Soviet girls of every nationality—Russian, Uzbek, Georgian, Ukrainian, etc.—rose to the defence of Moscow: ready to give their lives for barring the enemy's way to the capital.

Pictures of the heroes of the Soviet Union, Zoya Kosmodemyanskaya, the partisan girl hanged by German bandits; Natasha Kovshova and Maria Polivarova —two women soldiers who would rather die than retreat, and Liza Chaikina, a partisan girl tortured to death by the Germans, occupy an honourable place. The names of these girls have gone down in the history of struggle against Hitlerism and will live in the memory of posterity for times to come.

The name of the intrepid airman, Sprun—twice hero of the Soviet Union—is known throughout the Soviet Union. His pretty young sister, Anne, became a paratrooper in order to be worthy of her brave brother. Anne descended in the enemy's rear 50 times and, risking her life, carried out important tasks connected with the capital's defence. Alongside Anne Spruns are photographs of many other girl-nurses, stretcher-bearers, surgeons' assistants, pilots and soldiers. The Guards Sergeant, Ziba Ganieva, was formerly a student of the theatrical studio. She comes from far off sunny Uzbekistan, but she rose against the enemy who threatened the heart of her country. This brave sniper has killed several dozen Fritzes and has been decorated by the Government.

There is a picture of Elena Kovalchuk in action. This brave fair-haired woman is shown creeping carefully over the field with her first-aid kit slung over her back. She risked her life to rescue the defenders of Moscow. Since the outbreak of the war she has brought over a hundred men out of the firing-line to safety.

A STORY OF A WOMAN FROM KIEV

By A. ARNOLDOV

THE liberated residents of Kiev relate hair-raising stories about days spent under the Hitlerite yoke.

Here is what Maria Klimonko, who spent twelve months in a Gestapo dungeon, related:

"I was arrested in December 1942, for what reason I know not until this very day. There were nine other women in cell number 52, where I was pushed into. The women showed me scars on their bodies after fearful beatings, and that prevented my sleeping all night.

Morning came at last, and with it, the feeling that I had fallen in death pit with no means of escape. An hour or so later questioning began. Women returned looking aged with fresh traces of beatings and tears rolling from their eyes. This continued until the noon. Then we were given a little respite during which prisoners received a plate of dish water; and then again questioning, beatings and torture, until evening. . .

At 10-11 p.m. you hear a voice in the corridor: 'Get ready.'

That meant that for many prisoners the death hour had struck and they had to be taken out for being shot. Everybody hurried to get dressed for no one knows whose turn it was. This daily preparation for one's death was a terrible torture.

The cell doors were swung open and those on the list lined up in the corridor and marched off. These people leave never to return. Night sets in; then morning comes and the same thing happens.

DEATH CAMP

Finally came my turn. I was taken to the death chamber from where people are sent to their doom or to camp. I found a girl of nineteen there. She and I were placed in a lorry with fifty men, and taken to the notorious 'death camp'—the Kiev Siretsk Concentration Camp—two small squares of land separated by six rows of hightension wire fences.

The Germans greeted us with threats and whip. We two girls were taken to women's quarters. Men were formed in a line, deprived of their shoes and overcoats; and then the order was bawled out: 'Lie down.' All dropped to the ground. Then rang out the order: 'Riso.' And everybody got on his or her feet. This was repeated several times and appeared to be examination in obedience.

At three on the next morning, we were awakened and sent to work. Girls and women had to dig up and carry heavy frozen logs; women were harnessed to carts and made to drag heavy loads with stone and sand. Men's work was much harder.

If anyone was to lag behind or drop from exhaustion, blows had to be fained at the unfortunate person. Good God, if you only know how many deaths I witnessed from blows delivered with truncheons. There seemed to be death in the very air of the camp. What did the Germans not think of to kill their unfortunate victims? One man was forced to climb a tall tree and jump. He broke both his legs and was executed. He was not just killed; the brutes chopped off his head.

I remember that one man was begging to be shot because he could no longer bear misery and torture. The Hitlerite buried him up to his neck in the ground; kicked his head like football; spat into his eyes and then shot him.

People were publicly hanged every day for attempts to escape. All this savagery was directed by Schtumbar Feuhrer Paul Radomsky. He was not an ordinary executioner and murderer. The murder was something like narcotic to him. After each crime he seemed to change; he would wear a content expression on his countenance; looked weary and, for an hour or two, was even kind and never beat anyone. He was very fond of his dog and horse and used animals to commit his murders. The dog's name was Reke, the name that I will remember for the rest of my life. Radomsky would often ride to the camp on horseback during dinner hour, and set the dog on us. Reke would hurl himself on us: tearing and biting. Men and women would race around the camp in fear while Radomsky would crush them under hoofs of his horse and lash them with his whip.

Rotfir, Radomsky's assistant, once entered the women's quarters very much the worse for drink. It was night and we were all asleep. He opened fire at sleeping women, killing five.

"BABI YAR"

It is difficult to enumerate all the atrocities of German bandits. Fifty meters from the camp was the notorious "Babi Yar" moat where the Germans shot the Soviet people.

We had a good view from our quarters and saw lorries arrive with naked men, women and even children. They were shot on the spot from tommyguns. In two years, the Germans executed tens of thousands of Soviet people here. When the Red Army approached Kiev, the Hitlerites fearing retribution commenced erasing traces of their bloody crimes. We saw soldiers dig up ditches, take out corpses, dump them with some liquid and set them to light.

These camp fires of human bodies blazed for many hours. We sensed the smell of burning flesh, bones and hair. In this hell I spent twelve months."

The W.A.T.S. were to appear at the Christmas concert, and promised to provide an item showing "Beauty through the Ages."

One by one the players were picked, until they came to Lady Godiva.

"What about May Smith?" said one member of the committee. "She can ride a horse."

"Mary Smith!" snorted the chairwoman. "Good heavens, the horse would steal the scene!"

SIMPLE WEDDING

A party of Madrassi signalmen recently attended a Manipur Hindu wedding held by their neighbours. The sepoy guests included Hindus, Christians and Muslims.

Signalman Shanmugam of Tinnevelly, said: "the marriage ceremony was much more simple than ours; all was over in less than two hours. The men were dressed in white and wore large turbans. The bride was brought in, led by her father, with her face covered in a thin veil. She was seated at right angles to the groom.

The priest took the hand of the bride, put it on top of the right hand of the groom and that was the solemnisation of the wedding. Over their hands were placed a coconut and betel leaves. The bride was then led seven times round the seated elders. Afterwards the couple went away for their honeymoon riding a palanquin. We returned with the simple present of pan-supari given to us by the hosts."

In the absence, on duty, of her husband in the Navy, Mrs. Jones was taking her two small boys home to her people for the New Year. And she was finding the journey more than a bit of a task.

Presently from the corner of the carriage came once again a plaintive voice:

"What was the name of the last station we stopped at, mother?"

"I don't know," snapped Mrs. Jones, "and don't bother me when I'm reading."

After a few minutes' silence the youngster spoke again:

"Well, it's a pity you didn't know the name of the station, because our Jimmy got out there."

FATIMA RAKHMATOVA

By LUDMILA VEPRITSKAYA

FATIMA Rakhmatova of the Stalin collective-farm in the Namangan district of Uzbekistan is known throughout the republic for her original method in cotton picking with both hands. She worked hard and now picks twice as much cotton as the best worker. Fatima taught the women of the neighbouring collective-farm in her method.

The Uzbek Government has decorated Fatima for her good work. In the Soviet Union honest and industrious labour is valued as highly as heroic fight.

Fatima was later promoted to the post of chairwoman of the village consumers' co-operative.

In Autumn 1943, when cotton was ripe and the busiest time approached, there were not enough people to do work—many young cotton-pickers being inexperienced.

Fatima Rakhmatova went to the farm chairman and informed him that she would be among the cotton-pickers the following day.

"But what about your own work in co-operative?" asked the Chairman.

I will pick cotton during the day and attend to the co-operative in the evening. "Why are you looking at me like that?" she asked angrily. "What else will I do? My husband is on service and I think he is on alert many nights during attacks. He does not think of killing only one German if there are five before him. He knows that he must kill them all. There will be no harm done if I do the work of three or four people."

On the next morning Fatima went to the field and, by the evening, she picked 120 kilograms of cotton.

"That is fine," she said, "I guess my hands have not forgotten to pick. Just wait until they get back to their own."

During the following days Fatima brought her average up to 300 kilograms per day.

Other women began to follow her example.

Fatima taught Khariakhon Davlyatova, Fatima Dzhalilova, Sharapet Nurmatova and other young girls. The amount of cotton picked daily increased. The secret of Fatima's success was her methodical work, the avoidance of any extra movement of her hands and working skilfully and quickly.

Late at evening people returned home to rest, but Fatima, after supper, would go to her office and work till late at night, giving instructions for the next day. At early morning she would again go to the field.

Fatima Rakhmatova picked over 5,000 kilograms of cotton in twenty days.

This one comes from the British Legion Journal: The Commanding Officer of a new battalion, raised in 1916, quickly gained the high esteem of his N.C.O.'s by his ability to handle any situation that arose. So the Sergeant-Major, who had been a Corporal about three months before and was now acting as Adjutant, was all attention when the C.O. gave him some verbal orders to issue on the following day.

"There will be an eclipse of the sun tomorrow", said the C.O. "I want the battalion formed up on the parade ground, and I will explain it. If the sky is cloudy, have the men assembled in the mess hall instead."

That evening the following order appeared on the bulletin board:—

"Tomorrow morning there will be an eclipse of the sun. The battalion will assemble on the parade ground at 10 o'clock where the Commanding Officer will personally supervise the eclipse. If the sky is cloudy, the eclipse will take place in the mess hall."

GULSUM SHAMSIEVA

By ALEXANDRA YAKOVLEVA

GULSUM Shamsieva received me in her spacious office in the building of the Supreme Council of the Tatar Autonomous Republic, Kazan, at the Kremlin. She had just returned from a trip over the Tatar Republic. There were no visitors at this usual office hour, for no one knew as yet of her return, and we were able to converse at our leisure.

Gulsum spoke with a peculiar accent, of the Volga Russians, making me doubt whether she really was a Tatar. But she only laughed and said: "Not only am I a Tatar, I have even received my education in my native tongue."

Gulsum is 28 and is a teacher by profession. Following upon her graduation from the Kazan Teachers' Training College, she taught in Kazan's elementary and high schools for two years. At the same time she was a very active social worker, and was very popular. She was twice elected to the Kazan Municipal Council and, for over two years, she acted as Chairwoman of the District Council of the City of Kazan. In 1937 she was elected Deputy of the Supreme Council of the Tatar Republic, and in 1941, she became Secretary of its Presidium.

"My work keeps me very busy," Shamsieva said, "especially now when several deputies and members of the presidium are away at the front. From time to time I, like every other Government member, give an account of my work to my electors. Recently I made my tenth report to my electors. I keep up a lively correspondence with my electors.

I receive hundreds of letters and inquiries from the people in the country and from the front."

Here Gulsum showed me a folder filled with letters. One of them was from the front. The Hero of the Soviet Union, Makovsky, asks her to take care of his sister and sick mother. The following letter was one of thanks for the attention given at his request:—

"Recently," Gulsum continued, "I received a letter from a former pupil of mine, Barey Galiev, whose teacher I was in 1939. Now he is a lieutenant at the front."

When the wife of Mukhametdinov, a fighter at the front, died, Shamsieva placed her baby in a creche, and now the father is no more worried about his son.

In another letter, Kaznacheyeva, a teacher, thanks for the help she received. She has been evacuated from the front zone and came to Kazan without any means. There she found work and, with the help of Gulsum, she located her only daughter whom she considered to be dead. It turned out that the girl had also been evacuated with the children to a sanatorium and sent to the Tatar Republic.

The work of the Secretary, the Presidium of the Supreme Council is highly responsible. Many citizens apply to the Supreme Council. Every visitor must be listened to, given exhaustive answer, helped or told the reason for refusing his request and complaints by citizens. The democratic principles of our state oblige us to react immediately to the slightest infringements of our citizens' rights.

Preparing material for the sessions of the Presidium is another important task of its Secretary. It requires thorough questions. The Secretary has to check up the work of the deputies of the Supreme Council. Members of the Presidium also have to help the local Government organs.

I have made several reports before the local Soviets in concrete problems especially those which arise from wartime conditions."

To my question how she finds time for all this work Gulsum answered: "Well, it all depends on the proper organization both of work and of leisure. Twice a week from six to eight in the morning I study history which always interested me. Other days I devote my morning hours to answering letters and enquiries. In the town I usually go to the Supreme Council. On my days of rest I do a good deal of reading because this is impossible on any other day.

I have no family of my own, but I have spent much time in bringing up my brothers and sisters. One of my brothers works as engineer in the defence factory. My sister is about to graduate from the Medical department of the Kazan University and my younger brothers are studying in technical school and will soon leave for the front."

MOSCOW ARTISTS AT THE FRONT

By ELONA KUZNETSOVA

WE found Varvara Obukhova, an actress of the Moscow Maly Theatre, bustling about her elegantly appointed room, hastily preparing to leave on one of her regular engagements at the front. She is a tall, graceful woman with a typical Russian face that had a rather stern expression. The bright red band on her head concealed the scar left by a serious injury received during enemy air raid on autumn 1941.

A very attractive silk evening gown was lying on the empire divan. On the armchair lay a short furcoat, a fur-cap with earflaps and an officers' field case. High leather boots were standing alongside a pair of silver pumps.

"That is my 'stage' outfit," said the actress.

Her baggage did not dare exceed what she herself could carry. Therefore her evening apparel had to fit into the hand-bag. Linen and foodstuffs had to go into the rucksack; documents, money and notebook into the fieldcase. Short furcoat, boots and earflapped cap formed a very convenient outfit for travelling under frontline conditions, especially if one had to stay overnight in some remote, incommodious place.

A Maly Theatre Troupe was to leave for the central front on the following morning. It consisted of the director, Barvara Obukhova; actors, Mikhail Tsarov, Tatyana, Pafkova, the singer, Alexandra Pirotskaya and the skilled accordion player, Semenov.

This will be Varvara Obukhova's eleventh trip to the front. In the course of the year she visited all the fronts of the great patriotic war.

At Stalingrad the artists uncomplainingly shared with the heroic defenders of the city all the dangers of cold, lack of water and occasional shortages of food. The supplies depended entirely on the river crossings and the Germans bombarded the crossings day and night.

"We saw examples of unprecedented heroism all around us," re-called Varvara Obukhova; "and it was our desire to afford courage to the defenders of the city at least during hours of rest and entertainment. In the thirteen days that we spent at Stalingrad we presented 32 concerts, 25 of which were directly at the frontline positions."

Recently the Maly Theatre Troupe returned from a trip to the front where its itinerary covered Mtsensk, Orel, Kromy, and further west following on the heels of the advancing Red Army.

"Enroute we saw the city of Mtsensk which Germans razed to the ground; deserted ruins of Bolgorod and hundreds of burnt villages surrounded by trampled fields. We stopped at Orel for five days during which we gave three concerts per day, playing for many thousands of spectators from all new units heading westward.

"At night we went to Kharkov and walked along Sumsky—the main street. At first glance it seemed that everything was alright and that both the sides of the street were lined with houses. But, on a closer view, the moon shining through hulks of dead houses created a weird and ghastly sight.

"We continued on to Poltava. Of the large and well-to-do village of Poltavshina, which consisted of 300 to 500 households, only one stove remained intact, and for some unknown reason, a rickety iron bed too. Of a rich harvest only ashes remained and the odour of burnt grain that pursued us everywhere.

"We arrived in Poltava on the following day in the wake of the advancing Red Army units which continued on their victorious march westward.

"The city was still in flames. Crumbling stone houses exuded heat and smoke and stifled our lungs.

"At the Korpus gardens near the common grave where defenders of the city are buried, a meeting of the population and Red Armymen took place at the monument of glory followed by a concert. About 10,000 people were present: such a huge audience was unknown to artists even in peace time. It seemed almost impossible to be heard above the crowd. As soon as I announced the artists of the Moscow Maly Theatre would appear, it became perfectly quiet. There was something portentous in the deep stillness when Mikhail Tsarev exclaimed the fiery lines from Constantine Simonov's poem, "Kill him!" They sounded a call for vengeance against the Hitlerite hangmen.

"The audience did not disperse for long after the concert; they asked the artists to tell them what they saw enroute—especially about Moscow."

In its 28 days of sojourn at the front, the troupe gave 39 concerts for 60,000 people.

A short rest at Moscow and again the artists will be off to the front, to the central front to give concerts for men and officers of the liberating army which is going resolutely westward, daily driving the Hitlerites from our native Soviet soil!

THE KIROV TANK PLANT

By I. ZALTSMAN, *Director of the Kirov plant, the former Putilov works in St. Petersburg*

AT present when the whole Soviet people are doing their utmost towards final victory, our plant is regularly fulfilling the government plan of the production of tanks, motors, spare parts and other military equipment.

The plant's achievements are due primarily to the unprecedented enthusiasm of all the workers. The offensive of the Red Army reveals new strength and new sources of the energy of the Soviet people.

Arming the Red Army with the last word in military equipment, the workers of our plant are simultaneously arming themselves with new experience in organizing production, mastering highlights of technique and taking the utmost from machines.

Government orders are now fulfilled in days and hours, instead of months as formerly. Not long ago our plant was ordered to start mass production of a highly important military article. We were given six days time and were told, "That is a very short time, but you must confine yourselves to it by all means. The order for the Red Army cannot be delayed."

Our constructors, technicians and shop workers considered the problem carefully, found the necessary reserves and succeeded in organizing mass production of the article in 24 hours after receiving the order.

UNDENIABLE FACTS

The growth of our leading cadres and the successes of our plant are undeniable facts. The duty of our leading men is to keep studying and to apply the experience of the foremost plants.

The Kirovites have learnt and achieved a lot during the war. But no matter how much we achieve, we will never rest on our laurels. One must always endeavour to attain new achievements, acquire new experience and, notwithstanding all the hardships of wartime, produce more and more for the front. That is our duty; that is what our country demands.

REPATRIATION FOR DENTAL SURGEONS SERVING IN INDIA

Fourth-year dental students serving with the forces in India may now apply for repatriation to the U.K. This will allow them to complete their studies and qualify as army dentists.

British personnel who qualify in this category will be selected by the War Office through G.H.Q., India.

Courses have to be completed at their own expense. Periodical reports will state whether their progress is satisfactory. Some may be liable for recall to the army in their age groups.

"There is a shortage of dentists for the civil population in England," said an officer of the Army Dental Corps in India. "It is hoped that the release of some students from the Army may ease the situation."

HOW HE WORKS FOR THE FRONT

By ANNA KARAVAYOVA

I first met the Tartar steel-smelter, Valayev, Stalin Prize Winner, in Front Number Three Furnace at the Uralmash Steel Plant where he works.

The smelter pressed the lever; the shutter lifted and the glowing mouth furnace gaped. Only sun itself can be compared with that dazzling flame, that blinding glare of the molten metal: soothing there obedient to the will of man.

The whole place is bathed in golden light and, on this fiery background, stands out the spare black figure of the smelter: his movements efficient and resolute, and, at the same time, somehow youthful and keen as he runs to the furnace mouth and peers into the metal through his blue shield, seizes his sheel and throws in metal, lime, manganese; then again presses the lever, lowering the shutter; twirls the regulator and gives orders to test. Heavy drops fall from the metal in the ladle while fiery metallic sparks fly and fall hissing on the floor plates.

"We can soon draw her off" says Valayev wiping the sweat from his face. "She is coming along like a lady to-day."

"She"—that is the steel, this powerful yet supple and rich metal, to which Valayev devoted fifteen years of his life. It was in 1926 that he saw his first open-hearth furnace at the Jchusov Works and lost his heart to it. He felt at once that here was his life's work.

He was born near Kazan in a village on the banks of the rippling Mesha and, early left orphan, had been farm labourer working for a rich peasant tailor as porter, and even thought of being an actor. But in due course he found the work which won him completely.

"I saw the metal being smelted and I decided that this was the best job I could do . . . An unskilled labourer at first, I envied the post. Three years I was smelting steel myself. . . ."

Valayev will never forget the day of the treacherous fascist attack on the Soviet Union. He left the meeting, and there was such an expression of tense rage on his lean features that people turned to look at him as he passed.

"They have forced a fight on us that means—fight is on everywhere" he told his brigade.

It is on here by the furnaces, too, Stalin demands it; the front demands it and we will do it. Times are steel, too. If we lose time, we lose steel. We have got to cut time."

And, instead of eight or nine tons which he had smelted before the war began, he is now turning out eleven and twelve tons to a square metre of hearth space.

In February, 1942, when the shop foreman pointed out the work done by Nurul Bazetov of the Vorkhiseto Works, whose fame spread throughout the country, the hot-headed Valayev shouted:

"Well, and what about it? Nurulla is a smelter and so am I. Nurulla is a Tartar and so am I. He knows his job and people call me artist in my work—why should I lag behind Nurulla? I can give the front as much steel as Nurulla.

We will give Nurulla a run for his money," he told his brigade and, at the same time, carefully watching the quality, Valayev one day turned out about fourteen tons to a square metre of the hearth space. "It is moving," he laughed, as he handed the furnace over to his mate, Dmitri Sidorovsky. He went home and slept soundly; and woke to learn that Sidorovsky had gone one better with fifteen point three (15·3) tons. So there it was—not only was Valayev thirsting to overtake the famous Nurulla, but his mate Sidorovsky as well. So now he had two to overtake—"Good enough, we will have a match in turning out steel for the front," said he.

Now Valayev began watching every moment like a cat watching the mouse; attained the best shifts, raised the temperature again; cut time still further and turned out 15·6 tons. His heart beat with pride: he had beaten Nurulla with his fourteen tons and his mate Sidorovsky as well.

As time went on, smelting rose to eighteen tons—never had such a thing been seen in the Urals.

I saw Ibragin Valayev receive the Order of Red Banner together with other famous people working in the Uralmash Plant; while his mate Sidorovsky, was awarded the Order of Lenin. I saw the furious intensity of his work and I felt the spirit of co-operation combined with restless and demanding zeal that filled his brigade. I saw the might of the Ural steel flowing—flowing day and night like a powerful river of fire.

With a thunderous ringing sound it flows huge troughs of reddish gold, while, in reply, the furnace flames play over the faces of the smelters. Yes, this is the steel of our Soviet tanks roaring over fields of colossal battles, this is the steel with which gallant Soviet fighting men are annihilating German fascist hordes.

Inspired labour in the rear is one of the keys for opening the golden gates of victory—this is how Ibragin Valayev understood his life's work. With ever greater daring and determination, he shortens the time, at the same time inspiring others by his example. In the factory language this is the advanced method of high quality steel smelting, and on the base of this method a whole galaxy of talented Urals smelters, Talin Balyev, Kefin Uzkikh, Alexander Kuzmin and others have attained important successes. Like fertile grain this method spreading over further into the industrial life and now the days have come when the country has given still higher recognition to the work of the Uralmash smelter—in 1943, Ibragin Valayev received the high award of Stalin Prize.

THE AZERBAIJAN PEASANTS

By KULIYEV

AT the call of Comrade Stalin, the Azerbaijan peasants joined other peoples of our land to serve the great patriotic war. At the front and in the rear the sons and daughters of the republic are doing their bit in fight for the defeat and destruction of the enemy.

There is no part of the front where one will not find people from Azerbaijan fighting side by side with Russians, Ukrainians, Belo-Russians, Georgians and Armenians. At the approaches to Leningrad, in the battle of Stalingrad, in the Caucasian foothills and on the right bank of the Dnieper, the fame of fighting men of Azerbaijan has risen high. They are men who have, with honour, justified the confidence of the country, and of their own people. The people of Azerbaijan are proud of the fame of the 416th Red Banner Taganrog Infantry Division. For its outstanding services in the battles, for the Russian town of Taganrog and the Ukrainian town of Melitopol, this division, the child of Azerbaijan, has twice received the thanks of the Supreme High Commander, Marshal of the Soviet Union, Comrade Stalin.

The exploits of their countrymen at the front inspire the people working in the rear to unprecedented labour enthusiasm. It was with pride and joy that the oil workers and collective farmers and intellectuals of Azerbaijan learnt of the high evaluation of the Soviet people's work in support of the front which Comrade Stalin gave in his historic report on the 26th Anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. This report imbues every Azerbaijanian, whether a fighting man or a worker with a new strength for struggle against the enemy, in order to bring nearer the final defeat of Hitler Germany.

The government decree, awarding orders and medals to a large group of outstanding agricultural workers of this republic, proves that the peasants of Azerbaijan are faithfully carrying out their duty to their country. In these tense days of hard-fought battles, in these days when mass expulsion of Germans from our land has begun, the state publicly recognizes the services rendered by the peasants of Azerbaijan.

The harvest campaign this year was most efficiently organized. By November 5, that is, before the time set, the republic fulfilled the yearly State Plan for grain deliveries. And all other State deliveries were made as successfully. In most of the districts collective-farms are delivering grain, meat, milk, wool and other agricultural produce in advance for the year 1944. Tens of thousands of tons of grain have already been turned in. In the Bardin district alone collective-farms delivered one hundred tons of grain, over seventy-five tons of meat, thousands of kilograms of wool, butter and milk in advance to be credited to 1944.

Filled with constant care for the needs of the gallant Red Army and the population of districts freed from the fascist yoke, Azerbaijan collective-farmers have sown about 4,500 hectares to various crops to be handed over to the Red Army Fund, and taken patronage over the Stavropol district liberated from the Germans: sending over 460 tons of grain there.

During the patriotic war the Azerbaijan collective-farmers have increased the sown area by 140,000 hectares. This fact alone speaks eloquently enough of the self-sacrifice of peasants, who, under difficult wartime conditions, have not only not cut their sown area but even increased it considerably.

It is still early to give figures for cotton, but in this sphere, too, there are people who have attained splendid results. The Jebrailsky, Agdamsky and other districts completed their plan of raw cotton deliveries before the appointed time.

The Azerbaijan agriculture includes most varied of cereals, fruits and technical crops. This year considerable harvest is being gathered from vegetable plots. Tea picking plan is fulfilled, tobacco is being gathered in and many districts have, for the first time, sown and are now harvesting sugarbeets.

This year Azerbaijan completed its plan in stockfarming before time. In ten months the number of cattle increased by forty thousand head sheep and goats by over two hundred fifty thousand. The number of cattle owned privately by peasants has increased considerably.

There is increase in the productivity of collective-farm cattle, thanks to which many collective-farms delivered considerable amounts of meat, cheese and wool in advance on the account of 1944. The collective-farmers have fattened about ten thousand head cattle for the fund in aid of liberated districts.

These main data are as yet far from complete which characterize the successes of the Azerbaijan peasants in the third year of the war.

Azerbaijan is meeting the new wartime agricultural year well prepared. In accordance with Comrade Stalin's directions, the collective-farm peasants of Azerbaijan will give the front and the country all that can be gained from the rich soil of the republic.

WAR HEADLINES OF 1943

JANUARY

2 Russians capture Velikie Luki.
Buna area cleared of Japs.
24 Tripoli falls to the Allies.
14–24 Allied conference at Casablanca.

FEBRUARY

5 Mussolini ousts 12 members of cabinet including Ciano.
7 North African theatre of operations established under command of Eisenhower.
7 Brazil joins United Nations.
9 Russians take Kursk.
10 Guadalcanal battle ends.
12 Eisenhower promoted to Supreme Command.
15 Russians capture Rostov.
16 *Richalieu* and three other French ships reach American ports for repairs.
16 Ryiti chosen President of Finland.
17 Russians take Kharkov.
Churchill ill of pneumonia.

MARCH

1 Mme. Chiang welcomed in New York.
4 President Roosevelt celebrates 10th anniversary as President.
Russians capture Rzhev.
Helicopter adopted by United States Army.
12 Lend-Lease renewed for third year.
13 Anthony Eden arrives in America.
Russians take Vyazma.
15 Germans recapture Kharkov.

APRIL

21 Japanese execute United States airmen.

MAY

1 U.S. breaks ties with Martinique.
8 Tunis and Bizerte captured by Allies.
11 Churchill arrives in America.
12 Tunisian resistance ends.
Von Arnim captured.
14 American troops land on Attu.
17 R.A.F. blasts Moehne and Eder dams in Germany.
18 Opening of Hot Springs Food Conference.
22 Moscow dissolves Comintern.
28 New Office of War Mobilization created in U.S.
31 Committee of National Liberation created to govern French Empire.

JUNE

11 Pantelleria surrenders.
16 King George arrives in North Africa to review Allied forces.

JULY

1 MacArthur starts offensive in South Pacific.
2 Rendova taken by American forces.
4 General Sikorski of Poland killed in plane crash.
10 Allied forces invade Sicily.
19 Air raid on Rome.
23 Palermo captured by Americans.
25 Mussolini resigns.

AUGUST

1 Ploesti oil field bombed.
5 Russians take Orel.
Catania falls to Allies.
Munda falls to Allies.

AUGUST—*cont.*

10 Churchill arrives in Quebec for Anglo-American talks.
17 Capture of Messina completes conquest of Sicily.
23 Kharkov falls to the Red Army.
25 Lord Louis Mountbatten appointed to command in South-east Asia.
28 Death of King Boris of Bulgaria.
31 Russians take Taganrog.

SEPTEMBER

1 Europe enters fifth year of war.
3 Allies land in Italy.
8 Italy surrenders.
12 Most of Italian fleet escapes to Allies.
12 Fifth Army takes Salerno.
13 Chiang Kai-shek elected President of China.
15 Russians take Bryansk.
17 Russians take Novorossisk.
19 Italians drive Germans from Sardinia.
21 French troops land in Corsica.
25 Russians capture Smolensk.
28 British seize Foggia air centre.

OCTOBER

1 Allied troops enter Naples.
3 Finschhafen falls to MacArthur.
5 Germans recapture Kos in the Dodecanese.
13 Italy declares war on Germany.
Portugal grants Allies use of Azores bases
18 Hull and Eden arrive in Moscow for talks.
23 Russians capture Melitopol.

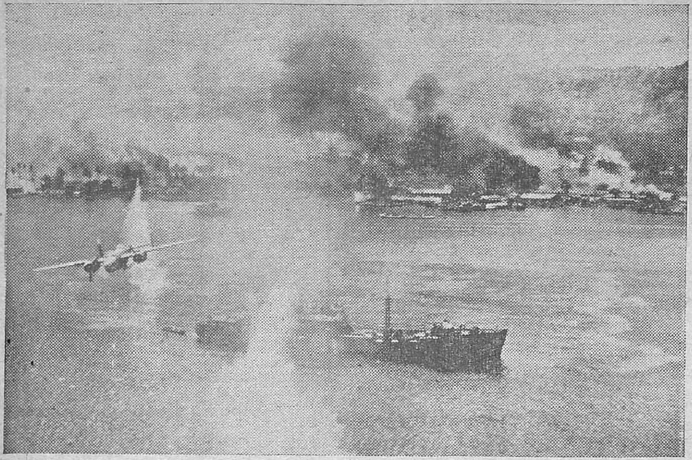
NOVEMBER

1 Four Powers issue joint Moscow Declarations.
2 U.S. Marines land on Bougainville.
6 Russians take Kiev.
16 Nazis take Leros.
Meeting of United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration.
22 Cairo Conference.

DECEMBER

2 Teheran Conference.
4 Second Cairo Conference.
Churchill's second pneumonia attack of the year.
15 Allies seize Arawe Peninsula of New Britain.
16 First war guilt trial at Kharkov.
17 R.A.F. again hits Berlin, "most heavily bombed capital in the world."
24 Eisenhower given Supreme Command of forces for "liberation of Europe."
26 Allies land on Cape Gloucester, New Britain.
29 The Russian troops captured Korosoten.

The R.A.F. celebrated the battle of London anniversary by a heavy raid on Berlin.



ALLIED PLANES BLAST JAPANESE SHIPPING IN SOUTH PACIFIC—At masthead height, a B-25 Mitchell medium bomber of the Fifth United States Army Air Force swoops across the harbour at Rabaul on New Britain Island in the South Pacific in an attack which sank or damaged 26 Jap nese ships. The enemy f eighter in the foreground has been hit and is on fire. Burning harbour installations are obscured by smoke in the background. A few days after this attack, a United States Navy carrier task force struck at Rabaul and sank a Japanese light cruiser and two destroyers and damaged two heavy cruisers, one light cruiser and eight destroyers and shot down 24 enemy planes.

WAR DIARY

BRITAIN AND GERMANY

29TH DEC. 1943.—British Commandos attempted landing on island Sark, in the English Channel islands.

His Majesty's ships sunk three German destroyers in the Bay of Biscay and damaged some others.

Mr. Churchill continued to make satisfactory progress and has left for a place for convalescence.

The King received the members of the Chinese Goodwill mission who are visiting Britain.

Following further appointments regarding Second Front are announced. To be Allied Naval Commander-in-Chief under Gen. Eisenhower Admiral Sir Bertram Ramsay; to be Allied Air Commander-in-Chief under Gen. Eisenhower, Air Chief Marshal Sir Trafford Leigh Mallory.

Enemy aircraft raided south-east coast of England.

Berlin was heavily bombed.

30TH DEC.—There was an alert in London.

Berlin and objectives in South-west Germany were attacked by the Allied aircraft. Over 1,300 Allied planes raided Germany, Mannheim, Ludwigshafen and other places were attacked.

31ST DEC.—Hitler has sent a New Year message to his armies.

1ST JAN. 1944.—Allied planes attacked heavily Berlin. Hamburg and objectives in Western Germany. Since the Battle of Berlin began in Nov. 18, 1943 over 14,000 tons of bombs have been dropped on Berlin which has now suffered its one-hundredth air raid.

2ND JAN.—An air raid alert was sounded in several London areas.

German dominated Europe is now producing war material adequate to a prolonged war of defence against Allied offensives of the present size according to an analysis of German and Japanese war potential issued by the United States Foreign Economic Administration.

AIR CHIEF MARSHAL SIR ARTHUR TEDDER. who has been appointed Deputy Supreme Commander of the Allied European invasion forces.

Aircraft of the Bomber Command made another heavy attack on Berlin. Hitler's Chancellery is destroyed.

Enemy aircraft raided places in South-east England and London.

3RD JAN.—Gen. Montgomery, the newly appointed Commander of the British group of armies under Gen. Eisenhower for the Second Front has arrived in London to take over his command.

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THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND ATLANTIC

29TH DEC. 1943.—President Roosevelt has had a cold.

The United States Railway strike has been called off.

30TH DEC.—Mr. Roosevelt's headcold has improved.

31ST DEC.—Mr. Roosevelt has contracted influenza.

1ST JAN. 1944.—Mr. Roosevelt's temperature is normal. In his New Year message he says "We are on the offensive."

All the 15 non-operating railway unions rejected President Roosevelt's offer of arbitration.

United States Navy Department communiqué issued to-day says that United States destroyer "Persins" was sunk off New Guinea on Nov. 29, 1943.

The Director of the Office of War Information Mr. Elmen Davis in a broadcast said "We are coming into the most hopeful New Year since the war began."

3RD JAN.—The condition of President Roosevelt has definitely improved.

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INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

29TH DEC. 1943.—A press note issued from New Delhi says that one day this week 700 Burmese villagers passed as refugees into the British lines on the Arakan front. They had fled because of Japanese ill-treatment by bayonetting and shooting them.

Mr. Richard G. Casey, the newly appointed Governor of Bengal bid farewell to King Farouk of Egypt and the Egyptian Premier Nahas Pasha.

A new warship H. M. I. S. *Cochin* was launched at an Indian port by the fourth Prince of Cochin.

30TH DEC.—In response to India's Commander-in-Chief's New Year's greetings Marshal Stalin has sent his thanks and the military salute of the Red Army to Indian forces.

31ST DEC.—Thirteen Japanese bombers were destroyed off Arakan coast.

The Governor-designate of Bengal reached Britain.

The Eastern Air Command has maintained its attacks on North Burma says a South-East Asia Command communiqué.

1ST JAN. 1944.—The wife of the Governor of Ceylon Lady Caldecott died by fall from the upstair window.

UNITED STATES ARMY DEVICE MAKES SEA WATER PALATABLE—An officer of the United States Army Air Forces drinks from a newly invented device which makes sea water palatable and safe to drink. The plastic bag contains a chemical briquet which filters water as it is sucked through a tube. The device, invented to prevent death from thirst among flyers drifting on rubber rafts after being forced down at sea, will filter pint of drinking water in 20 minutes.

3RD JAN.—The communiqué issued from the South-east Asia Command gives details of Allied activity in Arakan, South and North Burma.

Major-General Dan. I. Sultan has been appointed Deputy Commander, China, Burma, and India under Lieutenant-General Stilwell.

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RUSSIA AND FINLAND

29TH DEC. 1943.—Korosten, Cheruyagov, Skvvia and 250 other localities are occupied by the Russian armies. Advanced Soviet patrols are within 10 miles of Zhetomir. Germans have made new retreats in the Kiev bulge.

30TH DEC.—The Russians have captured Kayatin, an important communication centre in the Kiev bulge. The Red Army is closing in on Zhetomir. German line is cracking at all points along the Dnieper.

31ST DEC.—The Russians have captured Zhetomir. Over 60 inhabited localities were occupied west of Nevel. In the Dnieper bend several localities including Alexandrovke were captured. Russian forces are only 40 miles from Polish border.

1ST JAN. 1944.—The Russian troops captured 28 localities in Nevel region. Troop of the First Ukrainian front captured Barashev, Samgordok, Valodorka, Byclokorovitsy, Pogrebischche and 300 other places.

2ND JAN.—The Russians launched a new attack on both sides of the Dnepropetrovsk-Apostolovro railway line. General Vatutin's guards units are within 20 miles of the 1939 Polish border. Soviet troops have widened the wedge between Belaya-Tserkov and Berdichev to over 50 miles. Other Russian forces have reached just over 40 miles from the Rumanian 1939 border.

3RD JAN.—The Russian troops have captured Olevsk, which is only 8 miles from the pre-war Polish frontier. Forces of the First Ukrainian front captured Novograd-Volynsk, an important centre of German resistance.

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ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

29TH DEC. 1943.—The Fifth Army is fighting strongly to throw back a German counter-attack launched at the mouth of Marigliano river. The Eighth Army is pushing northward from Ortona.

30TH DEC.—The Fifth Army advanced 1½ miles. Units of the Eighth Army are now about one mile beyond Ortona.

31ST DEC.—The Fifth Army patrols entered the outskirts of San Vittore. The Eighth Army has advanced one more mile.

It is reported that Mario Badoglio, son of Marshal Badoglio, has been arrested by the Rome police.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL DIGAMBAR SINGH BRAR, who is commanding a battalion of Mahratta troops fighting in Italy. This officer is the first Indian to command a battalion in the field.

1ST. JAN. 1944.—On the Fifth Army front American troops seized three important heights. The Eighth Army continued to advance up the Adriatic coast.

The record of achievements of the Eighth Indian Division in Italy are given in a short message by an army observer.

2ND JAN.—Bitter fighting is taking place at the cross roads between Villa Grande and Tollo as the Eighth Army advances towards Arielli river. Torrential rain and high wind curtailed activity on most of the fronts.

LAST MONTH . . .

9TH DEC.—Troops of the Ukrainian Command captured Znamenka

14TH DEC.—Troops under General Ivan S. Konev have captured Cherkassy.

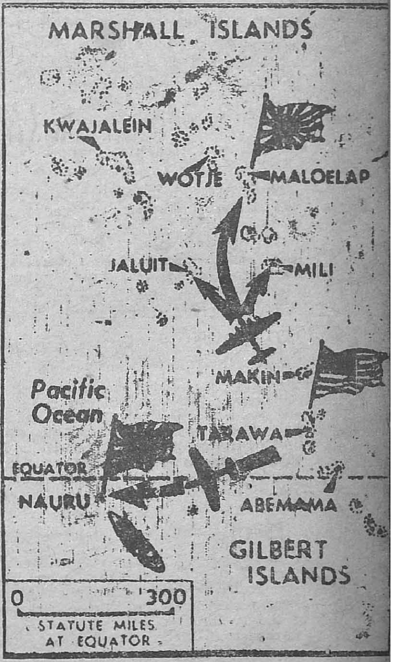
24TH DEC.—The appointment of military Chiefs for the various branches regarding the Second Front is announced.

The Red Army captured Kherson.

26TH DEC.—The 26,000-ton German battleship *Scharnhost* was sunk by the Home Fleet.

29TH DEC.—The Russian forces captured Korosten.

In a farewell message to the Allied forces in the Mediterranean theatre, General Eisenhower wished them good luck.



American Army bombers have carried out three raids o[n] Japanese-held Marshall Islands in the Pacific recently. The heavy bombers raided Kwagletn, Mille and Jalu[it] islands in the Marshall's Group. The United State[s] Secretary for Navy told on 4th January that the Unite[d] States forces continue to soften up Marshall islands. Thi[s] snap was radioed from New York to India.

3RD JAN.—The Eighth Army is pushing ahead up the Adriatic coastal road. Heavy fighting is taking place 3 miles north of Ortona. Weather hampered operations on the Fifth Army front.

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VICHY, FREE FRANCE AND OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

29TH DEC.—Royal Air Force bombers attacked targets in Northern France.

The Bulgarian authorities have banned all New Year public celebrations because of the public reaction to Allied air raids.

30TH DEC.—Military targets in Northern France were attacked by Allied bombers.

French warships in action against the Axis have torpedoed two transport ships and sunk one submarine.

31ST DEC.—Anglo-American bombers attacked Paris.

A Vichy official was shot dead at Annecy.

1ST JAN. 1944.—Marshal Petain has promised a loyal attitude towards Hitler in the event of an Allied invasion. Hitler's special envoy Dr. Von Renthe Fink met him and conveyed the Feuhrer's New Year greetings. M. Laval was present.

Dr. Benes, President of Czeckoslovakia, has arrived at Algiers.

The Premier of Belgium in a broadcast said that Belgium will be freed in 1944.

The British and the United States representatives to the French Committee of National Liberation, Mr. Harold Macmillan and Mr. Edwin C. Wilson, discussed with the French authorities the arrests of M. Pierre Boisson, M. Marcel Peyfouton and M. Flandin, former Vichy administrators who are charged with treason.

2ND JAN.—The Royal Air Force planes attacked objectives in Northern France.

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NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

29TH DEC.—The Turkish Government has asked the National Assembly for a new and extraordinary credit of 130 million Turkish pounds for national defence.

1ST JAN. 1944.—A German plane was shot down over Switzerland.

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THE FAR EAST

29TH DEC.—Allied planes raided Rabaul, Jap base in New Britain. The United States marines are within 1½ miles from Cape Gloucester. Nauru island was also raided by the United States aircraft. The Australians in Huon Peninsula have occupied Blucher Point.

30TH DEC.—The Commander-in-Chief of the United States Navy, Admiral Ernest King disclosed that plans had been made for the transfer of Allied naval power from the European waters to the Pacific.

American bombers raided Jap-held Marshall Islands.

31ST DEC.—In his New Year message the Jap Premier Tojo has said that the Japanese nation is facing its crucial test.

American marines have captured Cape Gloucester aerodrome. In a sweep over enemy aerodromes in Rebaul 18 Jap planes were destroyed.

GETTING QUITE A NESTFUL

1ST JAN. 1944.—The United States hold on Cape Gloucester has been enlarged.

Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek said in a New Year address to members of the Chinese Government that China's major task in the coming year should be to launch a large scale offensive against Japan.

Lord Louis Mountbatten has sent New Year greetings to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek.

American planes attacked Lampang in Siam.

3RD JAN.—The American troops seized Saidor on the North Coast of New Guinea.

MORE DOCTORS FOR I.A.M.C.

Nearly 150 additional officers a month are joining the Indian Army Medical Corps. They have come forward to help keep the hundreds of thousands of troops in India fit and ready for the campaigns which lie ahead.

Expansion of the army in India, and the great influx of troops from overseas, has made heavy demands on the army medical services but the Medical Directorate expects to reach the "target" figure for new doctors by next March.

The position regarding recruitment to the nursing services is, however, unsatisfactory. The medical authorities estimate a shortage of nurses, including trained and auxiliary, in the neighbourhood of 3,000. Many British service nurses are helping in Indian military hospitals to relieve the strain, but in spite of this the position is acute. The women of India are urged to come forward in larger numbers and volunteer for this vital service to the services.

"The health and physical fitness of the army in India is to-day much better than a year ago," states a memorandum which has just been completed at G.H.Q., India.

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